



A popular school event in 1904 was this Washington Birthday's Parade. The crowd shown here had gathered at the corner of Main and Center Streets in Heber ready to parade through the streets in honor of the day.

then a student and graduate of the University of Utah, advocated the establishment of graded schools. He won the support of many community residents and work began on a two-story eight-room school building, known as the Central School. All elementary pupils of the city attended this Main Street school.

The people of Heber were genuinely proud of their new school, constructed almost entirely of sandstone taken from the Crook quarry in Lake Creek. Elisha Averett was the head stonecutter and cut to a fine precision the stones of the building. The structure faced west, and stones were fitted together in front to form a large arch over the entrance-way. The entrance was large enough to shelter the students in case of storms, and also made a shady playground area on sunny days. The school's main doors were at the rear of this entrance vestibule, and opened into a spacious hall that extended the full length of the building. The stairs to the upper floor were at the north of the hallway in the center of the building. On the landing where the stairs turned was an organ which was played for the students to march to or from classes.

The sound of a bell was the signal for students to get ready for marching, and when a second bell rang, everyone began marching four abreast, with an arm's length between each file of marchers. The corners had to be turned with precision, and any unruly conduct was quickly detected by the teacher who promptly removed the misbehaving students from the line of march. It was an honor, and usually an award for good



ABRAM HATCH

Successful merchant and business leader.

Abram Hatch, the son of Ezekiah and Aldura Hatch, was born January 3, 1830, in Lincoln, Vermont. When he was ten years old his father's entire family was converted to Mormonism, and in the fall of 1840 they moved to Nauvoo. Abram became a member of the Nauvoo Legion, and later in 1846, when the Mormons were forced to flee Nauvoo, he served as a captain of ferry boats across the Missouri.<sup>8</sup> In 1850 he immigrated to Utah and settled in the town of Lehi. He married Permelia Jane Lott in 1852 and rapidly became known as an enterprising and industrious young man. In Lehi the young Hatch family farmed, raised stock, and ran a hotel successfully.<sup>9</sup> He also began buying and freighting merchandise across the plains.

Brigham Young called him on a mission to Great Britain in 1864, and upon his return in 1867 sent him to Wasatch County. He enjoyed a reputation for industriousness, and took care to encourage others to avoid idleness. He always had a hammer and nails with him as he traveled the county roads in his buggy, and whenever he passed a fence that needed mending he stopped to fix it.<sup>10</sup>

For thirty-three years he was the head of Wasatch County. Together with his ecclesiastical duties he was probate judge for six years and a member of the Utah Territorial Legislature for twenty-three years. While in the legislature he introduced the first bills for public maintenance of common schools and woman suffrage.<sup>11</sup> Although polygamy was practiced by the Mormons during this period Abram Hatch never took a second wife.

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<sup>8</sup>Andrew Jenson, *Latter-day Saint Biographical Encyclopedia* (Salt Lake: Deseret News Press: 1901), I, 385.

<sup>9</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup>Statement by Emma Hatch Wherritt, personal interview, 1951.

<sup>11</sup>*Deseret News*, September 7, 1917.